



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

JULY 20, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION ICE PALACE
**HOLLISTER WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO METH CONSPIRACY**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Hollister, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in southern Missouri. Operation Ice Palace is a long-term investigation into the illegal sale of large quantities of over-the-counter cold medications to methamphetamine manufacturers in southwest Missouri. Operation Ice Palace resulted in a series of indictments by a federal grand jury against 53 defendants.

Lisa Bick, 24, of Hollister, pleaded guilty this morning before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr to charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield on Oct. 16, 2003.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Bick** admitted that she participated in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine in Greene, Christian, Taney and Webster counties in Missouri, from as early as November 1999 to March 18, 2002. **Bick** assisted in the conspiracy by helping to locate buyers for the methamphetamine, Graves said, and was given some of the methamphetamine in exchange.

Under federal statutes, **Bick** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years, plus a fine up to \$2 million. Her sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. It was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement

Team), the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Greene County Sheriff's Department, and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow